

(2) U.S. Patent No. 3,596,465 issued to Pryor et al. August 3, 1971 as an "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claim 1 of the European application;

(3) U.S. Patent No. 4,426,038 issued to Inman et al. January 17, 1984 as an "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted column 3, lines 24 – 28 and Figures 1 and 2 as particularly relevant to claim 1 of the European application; and

(4) U.S. Patent No. 4,638,947 issued to Jaqua et al. January 27, 1987 as an "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted Figures 4 and 5 as relevant to claims 5 and 7 of the European application.

Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Moreover, copies of the European Search Report and of the cited non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Moreover, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Joachim KRETSCHMER



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Application No.
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Group
3746

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.